AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition to treat hepatic fibrosis in a human comprising a therapeutically effective amount of unitary doses of viral particles of recombinant adenoviral vectors,

wherein said unitary dose is from about 10^7 to about 10^{14} viral particles;

wherein the adenoviral vectors comprise an adenoviral genome of serotype Ad5 with deletions at E1 and inserted with a DNA sequence regulated by a ubiquitous promoter, a tissue-specific promoter, or a combination thereof, and wherein the DNA sequence encodes for a therapeutic protein for the treatment of hepatic fibrotic disorders;

and a pharmaceutically compatible carrier;

wherein the composition is suitable for intravenous administration; and,

wherein the therapeutic protein for the treatment of fibrotic disorders is selected from the group consisting of human matrix metalloprotease-8 ("MMP-8"), human matrix metalloprotease-1, human matrix metalloprotease-2, human matrix metalloprotease-9, matrix metalloprotease-13 and combinations thereof and the truncated receptor for human transforming growth factor-β ("TGF-β") type II.

23. (Canceled).

24. (Currently amended): A method of treating fibrotic disorders in a human patient, comprising:

delivering the composition of claim 22 by an intravenous administrative route to ~~an organ~~ a liver; and

expressing the therapeutic protein in the liver from the recombinant adenoviral vector of the composition to treat the hepatic fibrotic disorders.

25.-27. (Canceled).

28. (Previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 22,-wherein the therapeutic protein for the treatment of fibrotic disorders is MMP-8.

29. (Previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 22, wherein the therapeutic protein for the treatment of fibrotic disorders is MMP-1.

30. (Previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 29, wherein the therapeutic protein for the treatment of fibrotic disorders is the truncated receptor for TGF-β type II.

31. (canceled)

32. (Previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 22, wherein the therapeutic protein for the treatment of fibrotic disorders is matrix metalloprotease-2.

33. (Previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 22, wherein the therapeutic protein for the treatment of fibrotic disorders is matrix metalloprotease-9.

34. (Previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 22, wherein the therapeutic protein for the treatment of fibrotic disorders is matrix metalloprotease-13.